

Concerning Trichinelliasis.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

San Francisco, August 14, 1941.

To the Editor:—Attached is a copy of a news release, "Trichinelliasis in San Francisco," which I thought would be of interest.

101 Grove Street.

Sincerely,

(Signed) J. C. GEIGER, M.D.,
Director.

(COPY)

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

August 13, 1941.

City Editor
San Francisco, California

Dear Sir:

*Trichinelliasis in San Francisco
Classification of Food Involved*

For the twelve and one-half year period 1929 to August 1, 1941, inclusive, there were 275 cases of human trichinelliasis reported to the Department of Public Health in San Francisco. In tracing down the sources of the disease in respect to the alleged food involved, it is interesting to note that the survey shows the following:

<i>Food</i>	<i>Cases</i>
Pork sausage	61
Salami	54
Fresh pork	40
Mettwurst	30
Ground pork and meat loaf	11
Raw pork	6
Pork chops or steaks	6
Ham	4
Home-cured salami	3
Raw pork sausage	1

Other foods noted included imported sausage, head cheese, mixed Chinese food, pickled pork, raw bacon, smoked pork, and thirteen cases in which the food was unknown. Of unusual interest was the reporting of seven cases in which the food causing the trichinelliasis was bear meat.

In 1934, of the thirty cases of trichinelliasis reported, many were traced to salami. A rigid control system with additional control measures was instituted in November, 1934, for the preparation and sale of salami. Other active control regulations inaugurated at this time by the San Francisco Department of Public Health were as follows:

1. The regulation which requires retail butcher shops, kitchens of hotels and restaurants to display a placard stressing the warning that *All Pork Must Be Cooked Thoroughly*.
2. The enforcement of higher standards of sanitation on hog ranches supplying local abattoirs.
3. The elimination from the local market of substandard hog ranches.
4. A laboratory check on fresh pork entering the San Francisco abattoirs.

Beginning with 1935, the number of cases of trichinelliasis reported was as follows:

	<i>Cases</i>
1935	31
1936	18
1937	9
1938	19
1939	3
1940	8
1941 (to August 1)	4

This was in definite contrast to the cases reported for the six years preceding 1935, when there were 184. It could be considered, therefore, that improvement has been made in the attempt to eradicate trichinelliasis in San Francisco.

This survey has demonstrated some of the difficulties involved in obtaining specimens of food for laboratory analysis where trichinelliasis is suspected. Of the 275 cases

reported for the period 1929 to August 1, 1941, inclusive, laboratory examination of the food involved was obtained only in twenty-two cases. Diagnosis in many cases was by clinical findings and examination of the patient's blood for further confirmation.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Certain basic essentials stand out in any control program for eliminating trichinelliasis, namely:

- (a) Cooking of garbage swill a sufficient length of time before feeding to hogs.
- (b) Control of rats on hog ranches.
- (c) Cooking of all pork *well* and particularly small cocktail sausages.
- (d) Proper processing (San Francisco method) of salami.

Since the inauguration of additional rigid control measures in processing salami in 1934, no cases of trichinelliasis attributed to local commercially prepared salami have been reported.

Sincerely,

(Signed) J. C. GEIGER, M.D.,
Director.

Concerning Costs of Hereditary Taint of Chorea.

To the Editor:—Huntington's chorea is a disease recommended by the American Neurological Association for inclusion in any sterilization program. One-half of the children of chorea patients will develop the disease, the other half will be carriers and transmit the disease to their children.

In the seventeenth century there were two people in the Massachusetts colony known to be afflicted with Huntington's chorea. Two hundred years later a report on the study of the family history of that couple disclosed that there had been located 962 descendants of the original couple who had been confined in institutions suffering from the same disease. How many more had been confined and not located, and how many not confined, is not known. Nine hundred and sixty-two descendants from one couple in two hundred years is a sufficient burden on society and taxpayers.

Had the original couple been sterilized the expense to the taxpayer would have been saved, as well as the misery and suffering to those individuals and their families. Who wants to be born into the world a degenerate? Who wants degenerates in their family who would have nothing but a drab, dreary, and miserable existence before them?

Those who pose as friends to these unfortunates and oppose eugenics sterilization are mistaken in their judgment. The best friends of sterilization are those who have had degenerates in their own families. An intelligent study of the subject wins supporters.

EUGENE H. PITTS, M.D.

—Sacramento Union, July 31.

Concerning Treatment of Disease by Nurses or Teachers.

In an opinion prepared at the request of the California Board of Medical Examiners, under date of July 10, 1941, Attorney-General Earl Warren, Thomas Coakley, Deputy, provides a clear statement of the limitations that the law places upon nurses and teachers in the provision of treatment and diagnosis of disease. The opinion follows:

"Your request of recent date propounds the following questions:

1. Is it legal for teachers or nurses while being paid for their services as such to give treatments other than the first one to students or others for boils, warts, carbuncles, cuts, lacerations, moles, abrasions, contusions, or sprains?
2. Is it legal for nurses or teachers while employed as such to diagnose diseases, and/or placard or quarantine cases without a licensed practitioner's prior diagnosis?